Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A jig for forming a honeycomb body, comprising:

an input port for a raw material containing SiC; ~~and~~

a die, the die comprising a plate having a predetermined size and provided ~~with:~~with a plurality of cell blocks defined by a plurality of groovy slits on a front face thereof; and

a plurality of back holes on a back face thereof, each hole being communicatively connected with a predetermined ~~slit,~~slit;

a holding plate fixing a profile and size of the honeycomb body extruded from the die for forming the honeycomb body; and

a back holding plate controlling an amount of kneaded clay flowing into the back holes uniformly;

wherein the plate is made of a cemented carbide material having wear resistance, the cemented carbide material being formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness, a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% so as to prevent breakage when being used with the raw material containing SiC,

wherein only portions, which are in contact with the kneaded clay, of the holding plate and the back holding plate are made of cemented carbide having wear resistance; and

wherein the cemented carbide material of the holding plate and the back holding plate material is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness, wherein the metal carbide powder of transition metal series includes any one of TiC and TaC.

10. (Previously Presented) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 9, wherein a height of the cell blocks is 2 to 5 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) A jig for forming a honeycomb body, the jig comprising:

an input port for a raw material containing SiC;

a die for forming a honeycomb body, the die comprising a plate having a predetermined size and provided with a plurality of cell blocks defined by a plurality of groovy slits on a front face side thereof and a plurality of back holes on a back face thereof, each hole being communicatively connected with the slit, a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% so as to prevent breakage when being used with the raw material containing SiC;

a holding plate fixing a profile and size of the honeycomb body extruded from the die for forming the honeycomb body; and

a back holding plate controlling an amount of kneaded clay flowing into the back holes uniformly,

wherein the die and the holding plate are made of a cemented carbide material obtained by being sintered at high temperature,

wherein only portions, which are in contact with the kneaded clay, of the holding plate and the back holding plate are made of cemented carbide having wear resistance; and

wherein the cemented carbide material of the holding plate and the back holding plate material is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness, wherein the metal carbide powder of transition metal series includes any one of TiC and TaC.

12. (Previously Presented) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein the back holding plate is made of cemented carbide having wear resistance.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein the cemented carbide alloy is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

15. (Previously Presented) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 12, wherein the cemented carbide alloy is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

16. (Previously Presented) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 13, wherein the cemented carbide alloy is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein a height of the slits defining the cell blocks is 2 to 5 mm.